

Clinton Salt Brown
Sailors Retreat
4718 Sailors Lane
Oxford, MD 21654



222

Secretary of the FCC
% Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington DC 20554

© USPS 1993



MD 94-19

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11/10/93

MAR 28 1994

Dear Sir:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Office of Secretary

Please ~~do not~~ pose
any additional "user fees" on
holders of VHF Marine Radio
licenses.

These taxes are an abomination.

VHF is a vital link in the
marine safety network and,
as such, should be supplied as
a government service in the
public's interest without
extra taxes.

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Clinton Saltzman

MD 94-19

1-29-94

To: Managing Director, FCC
Subject: Public comment of VHF marine
radio license.

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NO on increase.

MAR 28 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Reason: Marine radio is a distress
communication link. An increase
will discourage small boaters
from installing the radios.

The FCC should not be in the
revenue collection business. That's
what we have congress and the IRS
for.

GARY PALMER
17104-125 SE,
RENTON WA 98058

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MD 94-19

Dear Sir M. A. [redacted] who ever

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

This is to inform the Fed
that I threw my VHF RADIO
in the TRASH CAN, ALL BECAUSE
OF REASONS AS BELOW. However
I would like to bring up this
piece of information over a period
of 27 years I've have called the
COAST GUARD AND THIS RESULTED IN
A LIFE SAVING CONDITION NOT JUST
ONCE OR TWICE BUT MANY TIMES
OVER. BUT BECAUSE OF THE GREED
I'M AFRAID THAT MANY OTHER PEOPLE
WILL FOLLOW SUITE.

FCC Eyes New Fees on Recreational Boaters

As this issue goes to press, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is planning in mid-November to propose new "user fees" on holders of VHF marine radio licenses of \$7 per year, or an extra \$35 for a five-year license. This new fee would be in addition to the existing \$35 license fee now required. BOAT/US believes doubling the cost of a marine VHF license will have a negative impact on boating safety. Members and boating groups are urged to send comments to: Secretary of the FCC, c/o Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20554.

I OWN A SMALL BOAT I'VE ALWAYS
ADHERED TO ALL REGULATIONS LOCAL &
FEDERAL, I'VE SWALLOWED YOUR TAXES

Imposed upon the Small Boaters
that commercial Boats got away
with, I HAVE made up my mind
that from HERE on IN I won't pay
another red cent other than what is
needed for me to do what fishing
that I do. I KNOW you will come
up with more TAXES ON gas & oil
AND probably Registrations etc
when I say you. You are
Federal. AND belong under the
Federal gov, ALSO when it gets
to the point that I can't afford
your increases, I will turn
to other methods of possession
I've got to the point now that
when I see a Boating Accident,
or MISAP of some nature I
turn my HEAD AND keep
going. I DON'T HAVE A RADIO
ANY longer Because of what HAS
TAKEN PLACE. Thanks To the Fee

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MD94-19)

2/5/94

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Office of Managing Director
FCC 1919 M St. N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Mr. Sullivan
Rt 1 Box 263
Kinnel, Va
22498

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MAR 28 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Your idea of raising
radio fee is outrageous. I oppose it
and will address all of my Senators
& Representatives

You Brewsters feel you can
tax us to death with fees. If you
want to start a profit making business
get out of our U.S. government we
don't need you.

Don't you know all of us are
suffering from lower wages and it is tough
making a living these days and
on small pensions.

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Disrespectful & outrageous
is what you are proposing
over Howard D. Sullivan

I owe a lot and am already paying
licensing fee, property taxes and again
how you set my pension for your President's new
Budget and in general I am disgusted
with the way our Federal government is
treating the average person who works
it should care

My suggestions

1. Cut your salary 20%
2. Cut your expenses 15%
3. Cut your staff 20%
4. Stop thinking you can keep
your empire by tapping us with
jumps in fees.

Just issue license forget about
user fee & raising for renewal

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MAR 28 1994

FROM THE DESK OF:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Ron Francis

March 1, 1994

MD 94-19

Office of Managing Director
FCC
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Sirs,

I just wanted you to know that your scare tactics with marine radio regulations and fines has worked. I have disposed of both of my radios and will use a cellular phone instead. I'll take my chances at sea without a radio rather than risk legal action and attorneys fees with you guys.

I guess you need to crucify boaters for simple mistakes and quest to balance the federal budget with our dollars can be justified in your mind. It can't in mine.

Just thought you would like to know,

Ron Francis

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FEB 2 1994

MD 94-19

Office of Managing Director
FCC, 1919 M St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 205654

Excuse Me;

I just read where you are considering imposing a fee on safe boaters by charging them for having a radio on board. If this is true, I urge you to reconsider.

The sea is an unforgiving environment. It can put the best of boats in harms way in a matter of minutes. Remember the saga of the sinking of the El Toro II?

Any interference between a boat captain and means of help, whether the Coast Guard or another boat, is unconscionable. How many captains would forego safe communications for the user fee you propose and they cannot afford? Could you, in good conscience, accept the death of just one boater for the revenue you propose to gather with this fee?

When there was a user fee for pleasure boats, I paid without a complaint. As I explained to my fellow boaters, we received more service (mainly from the Coast Guard) than other citizens and therefore should accept this tax. The fee was based on the length of the boat and roughly tracked on ability to pay. Besides, nobody has got to have a pleasure boat.

Your proposal on the other hand calls for a fee on a necessary instrument of safety; the radio. One drowned boater for lack of a radio, for lack of a user fee, is too high a price to pay.

S. E. Zattiero

Sam Zattiero
8355 Sperry Ct.
Laurel, MD 20723

cc: Hon. Paul S. Sarbanes
Hon. Barbara Muikulski
Hon. Roscoe G. Bartlett

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14956 Terrace La
Midlothian, IL. 60445
Feb. 28, 1994
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

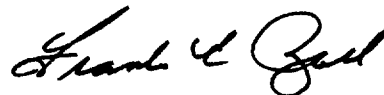
Mr. H. Walker Feaster - Assoc. Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Feaster:

I have rec'd your notice trying to explain charging and collecting fees for ten YEARS in advance. Something is radically wrong with the thinking in Washington. This is a blantant effort to disguise taxation as fees.

This method is contrary to all good accounting principles and is probably illegal. Are you going to put this money in escrow and draw from it each year? Do you intend to pay us interest on the unearned portion remaining in the account each year? I would like an honest explanation and know who was responsible for this scheme.

Sincerely,



Frank E. Zoll

cc: Sen. Paul Simon
Rep. William O Lipinski

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MD 94-19

November 23, 1993

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Secretary of the FCC
c/o Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir:

After all the wasted effort and rip-off of recreational boat "user fees," finally abandoned by our Federal Government as an unreasonable expense to boaters, it seems illogical for the FCC to propose more "user fees" on holders of UHF marine radio licenses.

Doubling the already high \$35 five year license fee will certainly not be cost-effective and will discourage potentially responsible boaters from purchase and use of this basic communications equipment.

Since other amateur radio equipment such as CB radio is not routinely and dependably monitored by the U.S. Coast Guard, emergency response and boating safety will be seriously impaired. As a member of the recreational boating public, I strongly recommend against such a proposal.

Yours truly,

Willard B. Eastman

Willard B. Eastman
404 Buttonwood Lane
Largo, FL 34640

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DEFINITION

MD 94-19

February 26, 1994

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. H. Walter Feaster
Asso. Mng. Dir. for Prog. Analysis
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. St. NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir:

Thank you for sending "Marine Ship Station Regulatory Fees". It does describe the financial effect it will have on boat owners but fails completely to provide a rational reply to the objections listed in paragraphs 2 and 3 of my 11/23/93 letter (another copy attached for your convenience.)

It is not difficult to visualize your interest in bigger salaries, travel expense allowances, etc. for the benefit of FCC personnel and generally more comfortable budgeting. It is, however, difficult for me as a member of the unfortunate recreational boating public, to see how your "response" can casually ignore responding to serious safety hazards which are inevitable when excessive regulatory fees degrade one of the few useful marine communications means available. I can also visualize how greedy bureaucrats relish the idea of garnering IN ADVANCE ten years worth of fees in addition to the \$35 renewal fee, which I suspect will be consumed at a rapid pace, leaving a deficit long before its time.

The purpose of the public citizen in sending comments on proposed actions of the government bureaucracy is to influence the actions not to invite the party line book description of what MUST be done.

Please try one more response aimed at consideration of citizens' well-being, rather than a recap of FCC intentions. Hopefully before another month rolls by.

Thank you.

Willard B. Eastman

Willard B. Eastman
404 Buttonwood Lane
Largo, FL 34640
(813-581-2853)

Att. 1

cc: Boat/U.S. Headquarters

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1 copy

FEB. 21, 1994

DONN G. BOGGS
3271 STUDOR
SAGINAW, MI 48601

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FCC
C/O OFFICE OF MANAGING DIRECTOR
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONAL COMMISSION
1919 M. ST. N.W.
WASHINGTON D.C. 20554

MD 94-19
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MAR 2 8 1994

RE: VHF MARINE RADIO LICENSES

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

I have a small 20 ft. Thompson with cuddy cabin. We use it on the Saginaw Bay and for short jaunts on to the Great Lakes, which means we are in open water some of the time.

As they say "A boat is a hole in the water in which you throw money" and it does seem so, with license, gas, launch fee, travel expenses, maintenance and a few other expenses. It takes alot just to stay afloat.

I installed a VHF marine radio as my no. 1 safety device. I don't use my radio for jabbering that much, but I have used it in helping several boaters in trouble, some in serious trouble.

I feel the raising of licenses would stop some of the smaller boats from using radios and it seems they need it more than the large boats. By them not using a radio the consequences could be disastrous.

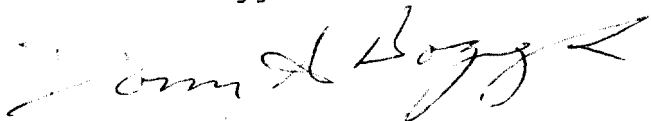
I have a few friends that have small boats, one in particular has purchased a radio at Xmas. Now he's wondering about the cost of licensing it.

Boating is getting more and more expensive all the time and here you are doubling your prices for the best safety devices on the market.

I do not feel this is right and feel you are jeopardizing life and property by raising your prices so high.

Sincerely yours,

Donn G. Boggs



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

February 21, 1994

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Managing Director
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Director:

I am writing in response to an article I recently read indicating that you were contemplating increasing license and renewal fees for VHF radios from \$35 to \$70.

I strongly oppose the proposed increase because it **does not provide added value (service) for fees paid**. The current \$35 should be adequate to cover the work required by the FCC. If it is claimed that it has cost \$75 all along, then someone at the FCC is grossly negligent if fixing fee schedules. The annual fee on boats over 21 feet was repealed because there was no just basis. There appears to be no just basis for this anticipated FCC "fee" increase.

I strongly support that the FCC should be totally self supporting; fees charged should reflect the activities required for licensing, monitoring and enforcement of designated communications segments (the US Coast Guard, not the FCC, enforces VHF licensing by checking for a valid license when boarding); ongoing FCC activities should be monitored to adequately determine the percentage of time spent overseeing communications segments; and that all employee's time is spent productively on essential activities or the activity (and therefore an employee) is eliminated.

Just as private business has had to evaluate its activities for cost and value provided, so should all aspects of government! (I am **not** a Libertarian.)

Sincerely,



Archie N. Ackart
5586 Aurora Dr.
Ventura, CA 93003

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MAR 2 8 1994

Michael D. Dykton
1365 Ava Road
Severn, MD 21144
February 2, 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

MD 94-19

Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

Dear Sir:

This letter concerns the proposed license fee increases for VHF marine radios. I want to inform you that I oppose the proposed fee increase and urge you to reconsider the imposition of these fee increases.

I am a recreational boater and pursue my hobby in very small boats, primarily sea kayaks and sailing canoes. I do not boat in such small vessels simply out of personal preference; I do so largely because of financial considerations. The purchase of a VHF marine radio would be a considerable investment for me and other owners of smallcraft. Your proposed fee increases could increase the cost of acquiring a marine VHF radio by 50- to 100-percent and would stop me from even thinking about getting one.

I have been considering the purchase of a handheld VHF marine radio for use as a safety aid. Between the commercial shipping and the large number of high-speed powerboats I encounter on the Chesapeake Bay and adjacent waters, I have decided that a radio is a necessary aid to safe navigation, not a toy or a luxury. I typically carry an array of safety equipment including flares, dye markers, signal mirrors, whistles and lights. However, based upon all the safety-related articles and accounts I have read, a radio is the fastest and most effective means for avoiding collisions or obtaining assistance in an emergency.

Given its proven capability to improve boating safety, why would any Federal agency consider taking actions that would limit the distribution and use of such devices? Has anyone in your agency considered the cost of this fee action in the loss of life and property, not to mention the cost to the Coast Guard for increased search and rescue operations or accident investigations? Would the Government propose a 50- to 100-percent fee on the use of auto seat belts or air bags? Of course not; it would be preposterous to even suggest it. Imposing such a stiff fee for the use of a marine radio is just about as ludicrous.

The imposition of excessive fees and taxes has traditionally been a way for the Government to discourage certain types of behavior (e.g., smoking, etc.). It makes no sense for your agency to discourage activities that promote public safety. There are fair and reasonable ways for the Federal Government to raise money, but quite frankly, this isn't one of them.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Dykton

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

SIR.

I HAVE BEEN A BOAT OWNER
WITH A VHF RADIO FOR 30
YEARS. I WILL NOT PAY THIS
TAX FOR WHAT CONSIDER A
"SAFETY NECESSITY" FOR
ANY BOATER. THIS IS JUST
UNNECESSARY!! A RADIO IS
THE LIFE BLOOD OF A
BOATER.

TRY AND CATCH ME.

Q A B

LARRY FRIE

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MAR 28 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Secretary of the F.C.C.

In regards to a new user
fee on holders of VHF Marine
Radio License.

I strongly oppose any increase
in the radio license. I would
very much like to know the
names of "all" the politicians that
support this increase. I would
also like to know the name of the
person that first thought of this
increase. These people need a
new job; as a tax payer, a
person that pays their salary
I would like at least have
a say in their job. We pay
their wages.

Thank you

"Sincerely"

James F. Pauling
41754 Ladywood dr.
Northwell Mi
48167

Fed up with politicians.

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MAR 28 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

January 30, 1994

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Office of the Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

To whom it may concern:

I have been reading recently in the various boating publications serious consideration is being given by the FCC to the increasing of or adding a "user fee" to the marine VHF station radio license.

I have been a cruising sailor of both inland water ways and extended blue water trips from the Seattle area for over 35 years. In that time period I have been called upon by the Coast Guard on three occasions to render assistance to a fellow boater in serious trouble. One case was the rescue of a man overboard. Had we not been in the close vicinity with our radio on, we would not have been aware of the critical situation. He would have most assuredly drowned in the heavy wind and waves of the ocean.

I am speaking for both myself and other fellow cruisers who currently feel the \$35.00 for 5 years is excessive for the station licenses, so if an additional fee is imposed, most of us will eliminate the radio from our vessels. We firmly feel we carry the radio mostly for the safety of smaller vessels that could need our help. We are fully capable of ridding out any adverse conditions we would encounter but could be called upon to assist others by the Coast Guard via radio.

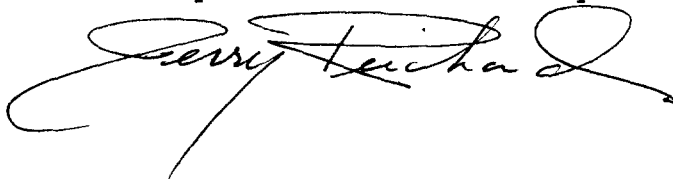
If this continuous increase in fees persist, I will assure you we will dispose of our VHF and of course no longer monitor Channel 16. The Federal Government is working over time to destroy a vital aspect of the only true help left on the water, that of coastal cruisers. The Coast Guard neither has the man power or interest in assisting the private boater accept to collect fines for minor infractions when boarding. Don't join this unpopular group by requesting unnecessary fees. The only result will be non-compliance or the elimination of VHF radios on pleasure boats.

In the ocean, off shore there is only us cruisers. We'll survive, we always have.

Think about what your doing before you act. Money isn't everything, and you will be putting peoples lives in jeopardy. You'll lose more money than you'll collect.

Sincerely,

Jerry Richard - currently of Seattle Washington



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February 1, 1994

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FCC
Office of Managing Director
1919 "M" St. NW
Washington, DC 20554

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY

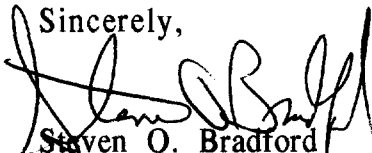
Dear Sir:

I am writing to say that I oppose the increase in VHF license fee from \$35 per 5 years to \$70 for 5 years.

I request that you review the need to license the VHF radio. This radio has such widespread use that I don't really see what the need to have a license to operate is all about. Normally a license to operate a piece of machinery like an automobile or an airplane, requires some level of knowledge (ie traffic lights, signing, assigning right of way, etc) to ensure the safety of others. I don't see where having or not having a FCC license to operate a VHF makes any difference to the operator or the general populous. I have read some of the arguments about if it is left uncontrolled nobody will get a chance to use the airwaves for emergencies etc., but I believe it is basically uncontrolled now and seems to be working just fine. Besides, if you wanted to control it I don't think you could due to the widespread use and availability of the radio units.

I strongly suspect that if you do raise the VHF radio license fees, your net revenues will not increase. I believe most people will just buy a radio use it, ignoring the law that says they are supposed to buy a license. Some laws don't make any sense to people, and when that happens they don't follow them. If the law makers are on top of things, they recognize the trend and remove the law when it no longer serves any real purpose.

Sincerely,


Steven O. Bradford
POB 020098
Juneau, AK 99802

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CORKY SHERMAN
7023 MAMMOTH AVENUE
VAN NUYS, CA 91405-3328

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MAR 2 8 1994

(818) 902-0331 • FAX: (818) 787-9017

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

FEB. 02, 1994

FCC
OFFICE OF MANAGING DIRECTOR
1919 "M" ST. N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

DEAR SIRs:

While reading the February issue of Sea Magazine, I came across a small article entitled, "FCC Wants \$35 More from Boaters". Isn't that just terrific? Is this another bureaucratic scheme to milk more money from boaters for "services" rendered? Just what does the FCC do anyway for the boaters?

I vacation in Florida every year for several weeks at a time. The apartment we stay in overlooks Biscayne Bay. Each year I bring my hand-held VHF radio. I know I can't transmit legally as I would have to be on my boat and my boat is in California. What would or should I do if while watching from the patio, I see a boat that seems to be in trouble? Am I allowed to call him and verify he is in trouble or is ok, or do I just stand there and watch and not get involved helping a fellow boater?

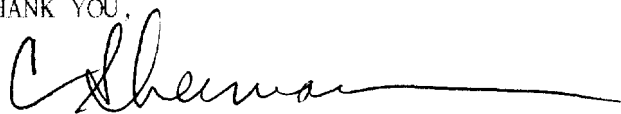
This past winter season this exact situation arose and I didn't know what to do. I didn't use the radio to call the boater for fear of breaking the law, but I think that he would have prayed for some help should he have been in trouble. It would have been lifesaving to be able to have contacted him on his boat and be able to ask if help was needed. I think that the "onboard your own boat" rule should be changed in such cases.

Also, have you thought that sometimes new boaters may feel that \$70.00 is too much to pay for a license and either not purchase a VHF radio for safety or buy one and not get a license? In the first case, it would be a travesty if someone was in trouble and didn't have a radio. In the second case, the airwaves just might get as bad as the CB airwaves.

I have noticed when I am in California, the Coast Guard seems to monitor the VHF and when any silly stuff starts going on they tell the radio operator what the rules are. I never hear any swearing or kids fooling around. In Florida this is not the case. I hear a lot of kids talking back to boaters that are conducting proper communications and I also hear some foul language. I'm not a "Puritan" by any means but hearing swearing on the public airwaves just burns me.

So, what exactly is the extra \$35.00 for? Exactly what does the FCC do for the boaters? Are there exceptions to the "on board your own boat" rules?

THANK YOU,



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

January 31, 1994

FCC Office of Managing Directors,

I have always considered myself a safe boater. I've grown up around boats and was taught to always be safe and not to take any chances. When I bought my first boat I took a Coast Guard approved safety boating class and I always keep my boat equipped with all the essentials ie... VHF, depthsounder, fire extinguisher, flares, life jackets, and a first aid kit. Now, thanks to your great consideration for the average boater who like myself won't be able to afford your new license fee we will be forced to either toss our radios overboard or to use them illegally.

Sincerely,

An Unsafe Boater

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Federal Communications Commission

February 9, 1994

Office of the Managing Director
1919 M St.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MAR 2 8 1994

Dear sir:

It has come to my attention that another fee is being considered for levy against radio station operators of marine pleasure craft. I would like to go on record as being totally opposed to the fee, which I understand is in addition to the license application charge of \$35.00 (\$40.00 as of April, 1994). I have a small fishing boat, and a VHF radio is as much a matter of safety as my life vest.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

For the Federal Government to charge me a fee to carry and operate a device which is fundamental to the safe and prudent operation of a water craft is ludicrous! To make matters worse, your fees are only \$50 less than what I paid for my radio. I ask you to re-think your agency's position on this matter and tell the congress what it is - another tax on the middle-class. Meanwhile, please share my views with the appropriate congressional committee.

Robert P. Hinds
402 Carl Ter.
Bel Air, Md. 21014

AR

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MD 94-19

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MAR 28 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

February 3, 1994

Gaylord D. Mattes
15017 110th Av. E.
Puyallup, WA. 98374

FCC
Office of Managing Director
1919 M St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Sirs:

I oppose the seventy dollars Marine VHF radio license fee.

I am not a frequent user of the VHF radio. While I am aboard my boat, I monitor the hailing and emergency channel, but rarely use it to hail other boaters or land stations.

I used our boat thirty-nine times in 1993. The fuel bill was \$402.07. This is down about \$400 dollars from some previous years. This is due to a decline in salmon fishing in the area. This seems to be a point of information with seemingly no merit. However, during the year of 1993 I probably used the VHF radio less than twelve times.

There have been so many times I have heard vessels calling the Seattle Coast Guard and not receiving an answer. I personally have called when I needed a tow and received no answer. I know of no reason for this to occur but it frequently does. There is no floating coast guard service in the area. The only time I have observed the Coast Guard was when they were boarding boats to issue citations. The time in question was an occasion while fishing a popular fishing spot know as Point Defiance. Probably several hundred boats were fishing the area at the time. The main Coast Guard vessel stayed off shore while they sent their inflatable in to board boats. At the same time, the Washington State Fisheries Police were also issuing citations in the same area. This ruins a good day fishing.

I propose you give a radio operator test, and limit the operation of the VHF radio to individuals fourteen years of age or older, unless it's an emergency. Put the Seattle Coast Guard station on notice to answer calls promptly. You do this and I'll be happy when I pay my seventy dollars.

Your very truly,


Gaylord D. Mattes

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Officer of Managing Director
FCC 1919 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Sir:

I have purchased a Marine VHF hand
held VXL501 radio for my 21 foot recreational
boat, with 70 horsepower out board motor.

Please send me information where I can
purchase FCC license and the cost for the
cheap radio. Thank you.

Sincerely,
John D. Raley, Jr.
Paul Ellis Rd.
Arlene, Md. 20609

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Feb 11, 1994
DIRECTOR OF SECRETARY

To: FCC , Office of Managing Director

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1919 "M" St. N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20554

94-19

Subject: Proposed increase in FCC Regulatory Fees.

The recreational boater seems to be the target for fees and taxes from all levels of government. It seems the government feels recreational boaters are all rich fat cats, which is a long way from the truth .

The proposed increase in fees for VHF and other equipment used by the recreational boater would not be in the public interest. The existing \$35 fee is felt to be excessive by many. And why it needs to be renewed every 5 years if the vessel stays in the same ownership we feel is not needed either. If vessel is sold, or operator is changed than require a new license and the FCC could save a lot of paperwork and expenses instead of raising the existing fees.

Since the equipment is not required on recreational vessels the FCC should encourage recreational vessels to license their VHF and other equipment by keeping the fees reasonable. This is a matter of safety and should be encouraged. To raise the fees higher will just encourage boaters to just not license at all. It would be better to have higher fees on commercial vessels and other vessels that are mandated to carry such transmitting devices, and spend much more time on the waterways than the weekend recreational boater. The average boat owner is already supporting the FCC through income taxes and the current fees and that is enough. Raising the fees on just the recreational boaters would be a discrimination on one class of vessel owners.

Please give this matter your fullest consideration and not raise these fees. Lets encourage boaters to license, not encourage them not to do so. Having been in the marine business we feel that this is what will happen if fees are raised.

Thank you,

A.T. Schaefer
A.T. Schaefer

Carole R. Schaefer

Carole R. Schaefer

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